

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 16, 2007. Claims 1 to 11 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 6 and 11 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 13, 18, 19 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Published Appln. No. 2002/0145750 (Honda) in view of U.S. Published Appln. No. 2003/0151762 (Moats). Claims 14 to 17 and 20 to 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Honda in view of Moats, and in further view of U.S. Published Appln. No. 2003/0151762 (Cherry). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to An image processing apparatus which receives a print job according to a predetermined print service request from a data processing apparatus and processes the received print job. The apparatus is directed to storing means for storing a plurality of pieces of group information in correspondence to job issuers; setting means for setting specific group information to a print job received according to a specific print protocol and having no identification showing a job issuer thereof so as to enable execution of for enabling the print job to be executed into the non-corresponding print job; and job control means for controlling permission/inhibition of the execution of each received print job on the basis of the plurality of pieces of group information stored by the storing means or the specific group information set by the setting means, if authentication for the stored group information is successful.

Accordingly, in an image processing apparatus in accordance with Claim 1, if a received print job is provided with user group information (Fig. 4), authentication is performed for the group information, and if the authentication is successful, the print job is executed. If a

received print job is not provided with group information, and if the print job is received according to a specific print protocol, specific group information corresponding to the specific print protocol is given to the print job. If authentication for the specific group information is successful, the print job is executed. According to this feature, print jobs can be executed even using Internet-based printing in which users may not easily add user names to the print jobs.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references, namely Honda and Moats, considered either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of the image processing apparatus of Claim 1. In particular, the cited references, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least the features of storing a plurality of pieces of group information in correspondence to job issuers, setting specific group information to a print job received according to a specific print protocol and having no identification showing a job issuer thereof so as to enable execution of for enabling the print job to be executed into said non-corresponding print job, and controlling permission/inhibition of the execution of each received on the basis of the plurality of pieces of group information or the specific group information, if authentication for the stored group information is successful.

In contrast to the present invention, Honda discloses a definition reception section 11 which is responsible for receiving the definition of a job, the definition of a workflow representing procedures for carrying out the job, the designation of clients and the privileges of the clients and the designation of operators and the privileges of the operators made by a customer. Job definition information and workflow definition information received by the definition reception section 11 are input into and managed by a progress management section. Customer information, client information including information on the privilege of the clients and operation information including information on the privilege of the operators are inputted

into and managed by a customer/client management section 19. (See paragraph [0089] of Honda).

Furthermore, Moats discloses a print system which processes private print jobs and non-private print jobs (Figs. 2A-2C). The print system executes printing for a private print job, if a passcode match is successful, and executes printing for a non-private print job, without matching a passcode.

However, neither Honda nor Moats, neither alone nor in combination, disclose or suggest setting specific group information to a print job received according to a specific print protocol and having no identification showing a job issuer thereof so as to enable execution of for enabling the print job to be executed into said non-corresponding print job and controlling permission/inhibition of the execution of each received on the basis of the plurality of pieces of group information or the specific group information, if authentication for the stored group information is successful.

In light of the deficiencies of Honda and Moats as discussed above, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claims 6 and 11 are directed to a method and a computer-readable storage medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the apparatus of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 6 and 11 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the

invention, however, the individual consideration of each independent claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 50-3939.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/Frank Cire #42,419/  
Frank L. Cire  
Attorney for Applicant

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, New York 10112-3800  
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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